

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVED, That the State Pension Review Board forward copies of this resolution to local governments that operate public retirement systems.

Adopted by the Senate on January 28, 1981; Senate concurred in House amendment on April 6, 1981, by a viva-voce vote; adopted by the House, with amendment, on April 2, 1981.

Approved April 8, 1981.

Filed with the Secretary of State, April 8, 1981.

STATE AGENCIES—WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS— FORM AND STYLE

S.C.R. No. 6

WHEREAS, The business of the State of Texas is largely conducted by state agencies through the written word in the form of rules, memoranda, pamphlets, contracts, letters, and forms; and

WHEREAS, Many of these communications are made ineffective because they are written in cumbersome, confusing language; and

WHEREAS, Confusing, unclear language leads to misunderstandings, wastes the time and patience of both state employees and the public, squanders state funds, frustrates the relationship between the public and state government, and contravenes the policy of the State of Texas as expressed by its public information law; and

WHEREAS, Communications that are written in complicated, tortuous language can be written in plain, grammatically correct, understandable language without sacrificing precision or detail; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Secretary of State has already developed composition and style guidelines, published in the Texas Register: Form and Style Manual, for clear and consistent document drafting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Texas, the House of Representatives concurring, That the 67th Legislature hereby direct all agencies of state government to adopt plain language policies that will encourage the use of clear, concise, nontechnical language in rules, memoranda, pamphlets, contracts, letters, and forms; and, be it further

67th LEGISLATURE—REGULAR SESSION

RESOLVED, That the plain language policies be designed and implemented by state agencies with fiscal and verbal economy; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That state regulatory agencies, within the scope of their jurisdiction, encourage their regulated industries to institute similar policies; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the chief executive officers of all state agencies.

Adopted by the Senate on March 10, 1981; adopted by the House on May 1, 1981.

Approved May 6, 1981.

Filed with the Secretary of State, May 6, 1981.

COMMENDATION—HOUSTON ASTROS

S.C.R. No. 8

WHEREAS, The Houston Astros earned the admiration and respect of all Texans by winning the Western Division of the National League in 1980; and

WHEREAS, This great team of competitors played five close, exciting ball games before relinquishing the league championship to the eventual world champions, the Philadelphia Phillies; and

WHEREAS, The Astros won despite the midseason loss of their great All-Star pitcher, J. R. Richard; despite the absence of a right-handed power hitter, a left-handed starting pitcher, or solid pinch hitting; and despite a number of crippling injuries to its players; and

WHEREAS, The division title was the first for the Astros, a team that since its creation in 1962 was mostly famous for playing under a dome, wearing funny-colored uniforms, and trading away some of the best players in baseball; and

WHEREAS, The team reached its nadir in 1975, when it finished in last place with a 64-97 record, 43 1/2 games out of first place, and attendance dropped to 858,000; and

WHEREAS, The Astros' fortunes took a drastic turn for the better that same year with the hiring of Tal Smith as general manager and Bill Virdon as manager; and